

SPoon AND PUnk

Issue #10

Summer/Fall 2002

\$1 To 2

The Mother Earth
Collective

Security Culture

Anarchism

DIY Wine

Squat Candles

A Soundtrack For...

Patches

Interviews with

The Forgotten

The Boils

The Casualties

SPoon AND PUnk
1515 N. SEDGWICK
WICHITA, KS 67203

PLEASE SEND TO:
THE MOTHER EARTH
COLLECTIVE
1305 TENNESSEE
LAWRENCE, KS 66044



**NOWHERE FAST'S LAST SHOW EVER
IS SATURDAY, JULY 20TH AT 214 COMMERCE IN
WICHITA. ALL AGES, \$5, WITH NO TOMORROW
AND CANDYMINIE.**



It's been so long since the first Nowhere Fast concert I ever saw. Everyone had so much energy and the music had so much power. It made me feel alive. Knowing that there would be another show is what kept me sane throughout middle school. High school came and my friends started coming to shows. I'm sure everyone agrees that those shows at Parrot-Fa-Nalia, with the room completely packed and Nowhere Fast making us all bounce off the walls, were the best. Those shows introduced me to many bands from many places, but Nowhere Fast was still always one of my favorites. Besides being in a great band, Steve, Paul, Kevin and (first) Ben, (then) Kendall, and (then) Kyle, were always nice to me, even though I was just a geeky girl dancing around at their shows, making a magazine and bugging them about interviews and ads all the time. Now, three and a half years later, the band is finished. Paul is playing guitar in Theorosa, Kyle is going to play bass for Stavesacre, Kevin is starting a band soon, and Steve will be doing a country project soon as well. Things change, and time keeps marching forward.



Nowhere Fast, thank you for all you have done. You helped shape my taste in music, inspired me to continue my magazine when things were looking down, made me laugh, made me dance, and made me happy. I hope I'll still see you all around. I enjoy feeling like you are my friends. Good luck with all your future projects! I know you'll all do just fine.

To read Nowhere Fast's thanks page and look over some of their memories, go to their website: <http://gonowherefast.com>

This is a list of useful websites and contacts. Sadly, I could only find one anarchist collective in Kansas (and zero in Wichita). If you know of any good websites/collectives/ publications/ activist groups/ etc. please let me know, especially if they are in Kansas or the surrounding area.

AK Press- AK Press Distribution, 674-A 23rd Street, Oakland, CA 94612, USA. (<http://www.akpress.org/>).

Anarchist Black Cross- Austin ABC, P.O. Box 19733, Austin, TX 78760-9733. (<http://www.anarchistblackcross.org/>).

Anarchy Magazine- C.A.L. Press, PO Box 1446, Columbia, MO 65205 -1446. (<http://www.anarchymag.org/>).

Arsenal- 1573 N. Milwaukee Ave. #420, Chicago IL 60622. (<http://www.azone.org/arsenalmag/>).

Clamor Magazine- PO Box 1225, Bowling Green, OH 43402, USA. (<http://www.clamormagazine.org/>).

Industrial Workers of the World- (<http://www.iww.org/>).

Infoshop Online Anarchist Community- (<http://www.infoshop.org/>).

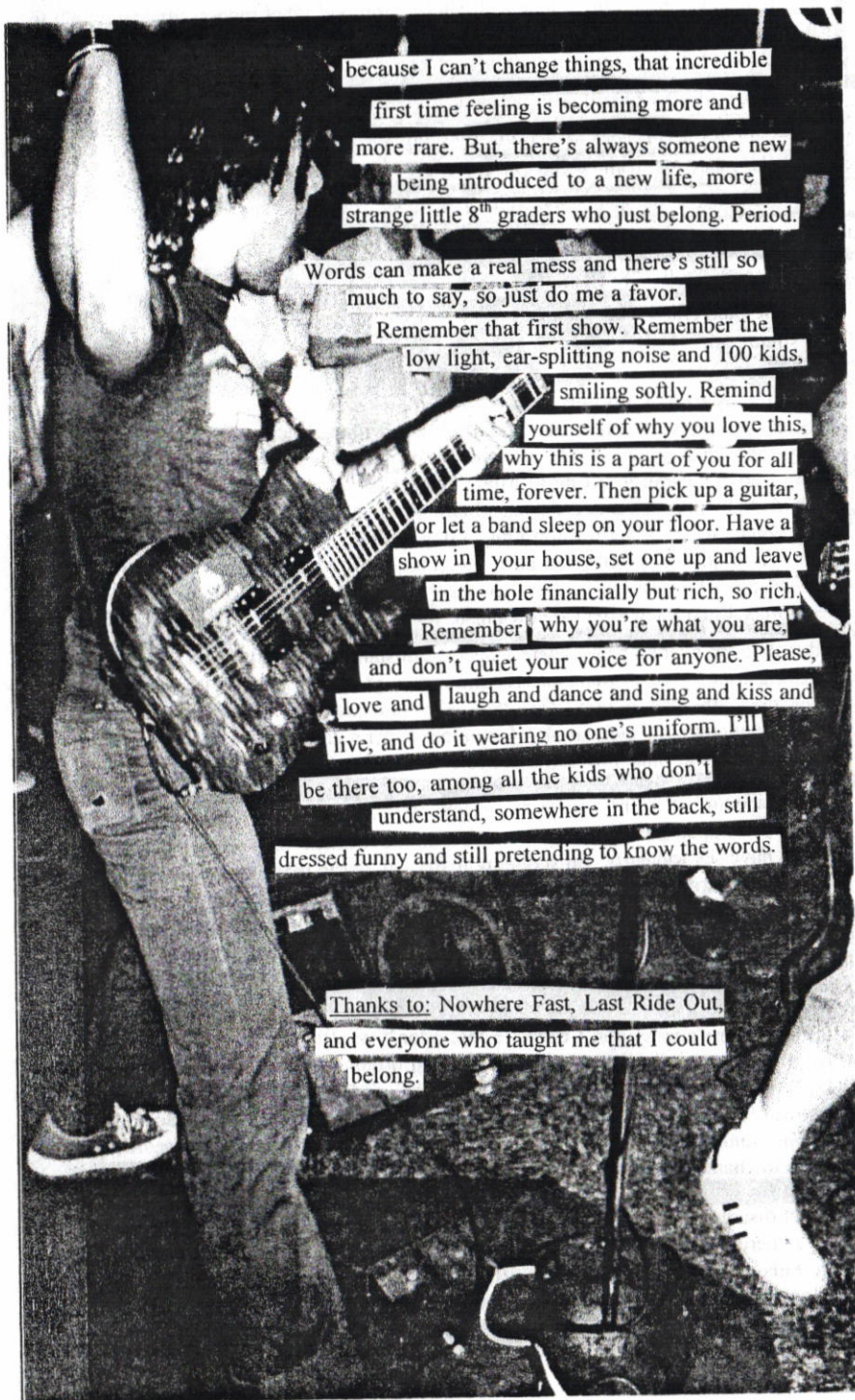
Lucy Parsons Center- 549 Columbus Avenue, Boston, MA 02118-1125. (<http://tao.ca/~lucyparsons/>).

Practical Anarchy- PO Box 76930, Washington, DC 20013. (<http://www.practicalanarchy.org/>).

Slingshot- Slingshot Collective, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705. (<http://slingshot.tao.ca/>).

Spunk Press- (<http://www.spunk.org/>).

The Mother Earth Collective- 1305 Tennessee, Lawrence KS 66044. (785) 865-0578. emmas_kids@hotmail.com



because I can't change things, that incredible first time feeling is becoming more and more rare. But, there's always someone new being introduced to a new life, more strange little 8th graders who just belong. Period.

Words can make a real mess and there's still so much to say, so just do me a favor.

Remember that first show. Remember the low light, ear-splitting noise and 100 kids, smiling softly. Remind yourself of why you love this, why this is a part of you for all time, forever. Then pick up a guitar, or let a band sleep on your floor. Have a show in your house, set one up and leave in the hole financially but rich, so rich. Remember why you're what you are, and don't quiet your voice for anyone. Please, love and laugh and dance and sing and kiss and live, and do it wearing no one's uniform. I'll be there too, among all the kids who don't understand, somewhere in the back, still dressed funny and still pretending to know the words.

Thanks to: Nowhere Fast, Last Ride Out, and everyone who taught me that I could belong.

Spoon and Punk

ISSUE 10

summer/fall 2002

This issue has been a long time in the making, but it's finally finished.

After putting off things for a while, and then being delayed for a month by my stay in Lawrence (you can't imagine how hard it is to actually get any work done with a roommate always asking questions), I decided I'd finish everything before I left for Minnesota. Chances are if you're reading this I'm already back in town, but it's still worth mentioning.

For this issue, I did interviews with Greg from The Boils, Meggers from The Casualties, and Gordy from The Forgotten; spent a lot of time looking around the DIY Auction site (<http://www.diy-auction.com/diy/>) and getting ideas, as well as borrowing information that I thought would be useful from various other places (among those, the NAAG website- <http://www.prague-index.org/naag/>). Dan wrote up another "A Soundtrack For..." and let me use a bunch of photos from a million shows for backgrounds. The cover photo (I took it myself...with Dan's film nonetheless) is of Troy and Paul from The Theorosa, officially one of my favorite local bands. Check them out if you have the chance. Also worth mentioning: Mr. Fieldtrip, from Lawrence, has a new CD out called 10-B:C, which you can purchase for ten bucks (check the website to find out which stores in Wichita sell it, or to order direct from the band: <http://mrfieldtrip.com>). Feel free to harass them by way of email and tell them to play an all ages show in Wichita. It's about time.

Another thing worth mentioning is that in two months (on September 12) I turn eighteen. Is it harder to believe that I'm almost eighteen or that I started this zine when I was sixteen? I find it's usually the latter.

Thanks to everyone that helped by writing, doing interviews, giving ideas and supporting me in general. Sorry it took so long to get this done, but you know how it goes.

Alexandra

Feel free to contact me about anything concerning the zine (or if you know a good place to get vegan food in Wichita).

Email: punkstart@cox.net

Write: Spoon and Punk
1515 N. Sedgwick
Wichita, KS 67203

Everything is written by Alexandra Unruh unless otherwise stated. Feel free to use any material found in this zine if you think it will help whatever you are doing, just give credit where credit is due.

This is an anarchist FAQ taken from the North American Anarchist Gathering website (<http://www.prague-index.org/naag/>) which I feel accurately represents anarchism. Please note, however, that ideas among anarchists vary, and that this is not representational of what every anarchist thinks.

What is Anarchism?

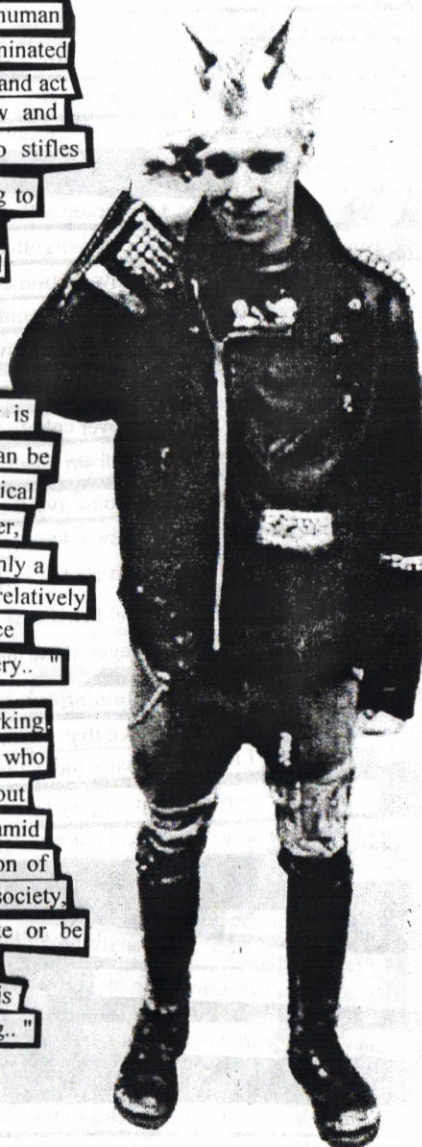
Anarchism is an idea based on three things: **liberty, equality, and solidarity.**

"**Liberty** is essential for the full flowering of human intelligence, creativity, and dignity. To be dominated by another is to be denied the chance to think and act for oneself, which is the only way to grow and develop one's individuality. Domination also stifles innovation and personal responsibility, leading to conformity and mediocrity. Thus the society that maximizes the growth of individuality will necessarily be based on voluntary association, not coercion and authority."

"If liberty is essential for the fullest development of individuality, then **equality** is essential for genuine liberty to exist. There can be no real freedom in a class-stratified, hierarchical society riddled with gross inequalities of power, wealth, and privilege. For in such a society only a few -- those at the top of the hierarchy -- are relatively free, while the rest are semi-slaves. Hence without equality, liberty becomes a mockery.."

"Finally, **solidarity** means mutual aid: working voluntarily and co-operatively with others who share the same goals and interests. But without liberty and equality, society becomes a pyramid of competing classes based on the domination of the lower by the higher strata. In such a society, as we know from our own, it's "dominate or be dominated," "dog eat dog," and "everyone for themselves." Thus "rugged individualism" is promoted at the expense of community feeling.."

Isn't Anarchism Disorder?



accepted. But things change, and ideas do too; the bands that drove us then were fiercely on their own, they eschewed label jargon and label money for being able to do what they wanted the way they wanted. They played heartfelt crappy songs, crappy sometimes because they didn't yet know any other way to play.

And, I turn on the tv and see that the same kids are now banging down the doors or small labels that want to be big and crappy labels that don't care about the awkward, confused, optimistic boy or girl that most of us once were. The music is a dollar sign and the community is ignored, and in the shadow or that ignorance has fallen to nothing but drunken parties and crappy fashion fights. There's more.

But I got older, as I am now, and did all I knew how to do. I emulated my friends, picked up instruments and found out I couldn't stop. I've set up many shows with many friends; the things I've loved have grown and blossomed. I want it to be very clear- I do these things because I must. There's been a million times that it would've been easy to dress normal, dance normal, hang out in the mall or smoke weed or something, but I can't, I wouldn't last a day in that world. Sometimes I exist for that over driven guitar, how it pushes and pulls the emotion out, how I scream and dance and yell out of need, and in turn, the response from others is the same, new bands form, new alliances and new friends, new music.

And suddenly I am pushed back. There's been a constant barrage of complaints, kids fighting over money, over a want for recognition coupled with a lack of motivation. Kids only attend the shows they play, they complain about being paid, and about everything and anything. I look around, lost in a song or a dance, and I realize I'm the only one dancing, the only one feeling. Me and others like me feel pushed to the

outside, the dinosaurs of a time not so long ago, of a culture not so long dead. The boy with the pre-ripped paints, the girl who's bulimic with no self-respect leave a show early to have sex too early and suddenly it's a new world that I don't belong to. I am still that awkward, happy, hopeful 8th grader waiting for the next song, the next note, the next friend. I miss 1:00AM conversations with kids who lived across america, now a permanent friend. My shelter isn't keeping out the rain, which is new, because I've always had an umbrella, and its been eroding over my head and I never even noticed.

I know things go in stages. I don't expect a lot, I don't want recognition and I can't expect that my music will be universally loved. But I do miss a room full of kids that simply felt alive. I'm tired of emo, I hate the word, and it confuses me. Why be dumbed down? Why be boxed in? Whether fast or slow, hard or soft, sung or screamed, it's punk because it belongs with these people, with this moment, this culture, open to change and newness.

And yet I cant discount all the kids who show up. Many of them don't care about the music, they're here to see Suzy or Jenny or whoever. The scene has become a skating rink, where kids go to see who's who. In all the mess I feel lost, wading in a sea of kids who don't care about me, who stand outside instead of watching bands. It hurts

A Soundtrack For...

By Dan Davis

Do you remember the first show you ever went to?

It's a world away now, but the smells, the feelings are the same. Remembering rooms far too small with too many people having too good of a time. I remember 8th grade, a private hell, torn between being myself (being alone) or being sad (popular). The mix tapes I had in my possession were like a medical tent, cauterizing wounds and giving me blood transfusions of Misfits, or Sweep the Leg Johnny or The Pixies, fixing the broken arm that got twisted by everyone I knew. I was frustrated and alone, much of the time.

And I supposed that's exactly why I remember my first show so well. I remember so much cigarette smoke that I itched and so many kids who looked like me, who felt like me, who were like me. We all danced the same, joked and punched and sand and yelled and kissed the same. We were all different though and that was probably the

biggest unifying factor of all: all the kids at a show in Wichita in 1998-1999 were scared, awed 8th graders whether age 14 or 21. We all knew the scars, we all felt the burn, and we all felt fucking invincible for one night every few months. I remember standing up front at the Parrot, standing next to new friends and feeling seven feet tall, yelling at the top of my lungs and trying to pretend to know the lyrics that were being screamed back at me, every bit as hard and with every bit of love and respect and energy that could be mustered. You never left without a hug or a smile, without stickers or records, without something to remind you that you weren't cool, and you

never would be, but fuck cool, it wasn't you, wouldn't and couldn't be you. No explanation was needed, everyone felt it and new it, it was fun, it was perfect. We sang together, we laughed together, we were our own group, a step above, a little beyond. It was still hard for me. I had a lot; I had kids I understood and a scene, something to belong to. Somehow, that's made it okay even when it probably shouldn't have. Being the only person out of 100 who looked like you did, the only dot of color (black, Asian, Colombian, whatever) in a sea of white. I couldn't care less, and still I was forced to care:

"So, I don't know any other black kids who are punk. Who told you about it?"

"What's the neighborhood like where you live? Is it safe?"

"I bet you like rap, though...right?"

Sometimes you're just a little too black for the punks, a little too punk for the kids at school, and WAY too white for the black kids. Like it or not, I caught many a beating for acting the way I felt like acting. I've had my heart broke again and again by girls who were worried about dating me, about black people, about different people. It's not popular but it's true.

And that felt insane to me. Here I am, amongst this culture and the millions of kids who subscribe to it, built on a foundation of diversity, and I can't find a way to be

Absolutely not. Anarchism is to date the most organized and democratic form of society, where communities are organized into collectives and federations, and each member has an equal say in running their workplace and society. It is in high contrast to our society of capitalism, which allows the people to be subject to the whims of a market, using violence to control those who seek equality in a hierarchal system.

The image of Anarchism being chaos is one generated by those in power, who, without the image that their authority keeps order, would have to share their wealth with the people who helped them attain it (the workers). This concept of "chaos anarchism", which appeals to youth especially for its anti-authoritarian element, has become a two-way capitalist tool in which the conflicting image is sold to the young (clothing, music, stickers, etc.) thus confusing them about what it is to be anti-authoritarian; and at the same time demonizing anarchism and

perpetuating the belief that anarchists want a chaotic society. The way anarchism is marketed, it is no wonder that consumers find capitalism more orderly

Why are Anarchists Opposed to War?

War is a tool of hierarchal society; of a government and of capitalists. All wars are fought for either the political or economic interests of those in power. The institutions that lead us to war time and time again will never give us peace, because it's not in their interests. Peace will come when people and workers of the world can organize, take back their lives, and share the power in society.

Isn't Anarchism Synonymous with Violence?

Again the answer is no. This is another deception by capitalist media who intend to portray anarchists as nothing more than window-smashers in order to foster fear and contempt among its millions of viewers/listeners. Anarchists believe in a society where all decisions are made democratically, and the distribution of goods is based on the principles of mutual aid and cooperation. Anarchists are opposed to the state and to capitalism for the very reason that they are violent forms of "order."

What's Up with the Red and Black?

Many anarchists use these colors as symbols of Anarchism, or Anarcho-Syndicalism (non-hierarchal Socialism). The red symbolizes material equality and equal distribution of property, while the black represents the triumph of individual freedom through abolition

of the state. Together the colors represent the ultimate goal of the anarchist: the creation of a society based on individual freedom and material equality.

The Mother Earth Collective

If you've ever been in Lawrence for more than just a show and ventured down Tennessee Street you've probably passed by the Mother Earth Collective. It's one house over from the intersection of 13th on Tennessee on the right side of the street, assuming you obey traffic laws. While I was in Lawrence during June I stopped by a few times, looked around a little, talked to a few people. I probably didn't leave an impression on anyone there, but they left one on me.

As I was not able to leave campus very often during my month long stay in Lawrence, I only ventured to the collective three or four times, each time to return books I had borrowed and check out new ones from their library. The library takes up one room of the house, shelves almost completely filled, with boxes of recently donated books stacked in one corner. Subjects range from anarchism to feminism, punk rock, political science and theory, as well as general fiction, zines and more. Surprisingly, I was told that they started collecting books for their library just about a year ago. It seems strange to me that people could come together so quickly and get something like that done, but I suppose being from Wichita (not to talk down on Wichita or anything, but you know how

it goes) where a lot of what goes on is just a flavor of the month type of thing, I'm not used to many people coming together to actually do something productive that has lasting effects. Besides that, the people at the collective were genuinely friendly and helpful, which is something I haven't encountered too often in my life.

Because I only visited the collective a few times, I don't really know what goes on there other than the library (which I am thoroughly impressed with), but I must say despite my lack of knowledge on any other aspects of the collective, it's very much worth a visit based on the library and the people alone. If nothing else, you can leave with an armful of free literature, a few borrowed books, and comfort knowing that a place like the Mother Earth Collective exists.

Call before you stop by to make sure someone is home.

The Mother Earth Collective
1305 Tennessee
Lawrence, KS 66044

(785) 865-0578

Emmas_kids@hotmail.com

Squat Candles



To make a squat candle, all you have to do is take the bottom of a can and fill it partially with whatever wax you can find. If you can manage to steal a bar or two of canning wax from the grocery store, it works great. Otherwise, crayons, parts of already used candles, or any other kind of wax will work fine. Once that is done, get a piece of paper, light it, and put it in the can with the wax. If the flame starts to get too big, add some more wax to the can. If the flame is too small, add more paper. Remember to save the wax to use later. Also, when putting out the flame, don't blow on it. Smother it, but be careful. You don't want to set your squat (or parents house, apartment, whatever) on fire.

If possible the educational session should be conducted in private, so the person doesn't feel humiliated by a public reprimand. The educational session should occur as soon as possible after the mistake to increase its effectiveness.

If each of us takes on the responsibility of educating those who slip up, we can dramatically improve movement security. Once we recognize lying, gossiping, bragging and indirect bragging as the damaging character flaws that they are, they will soon end. When we develop a culture where all breaches of security result in immediate response, all sincere activists will quickly get with the program.

DEALING WITH CHRONIC SECURITY PROBLEMS

So what do we do with activists who repeatedly violate security precautions even after multiple educational sessions? It's unfortunate but necessary to cut them loose and kick them out of our meetings, base camps and organizations. With the FBI doubling in size and with courts handing down stiff sentences, the stakes are too high to allow chronic security-offenders to work among us.

By creating a security culture, we have an effective defense against informers and agents who try to infiltrate groups. Imagine an informer who, every time she asked another activist about that person's involvement with some group or action, received a reprimand and an education on security. That informer would quickly get frustrated. Once activists discover that she continued to violate security precautions after being repeatedly reprimanded, they would have grounds for her dismissal. That would be one less informer for us to deal with!

DON'T STOP HERE

It is also imperative that each of us understands our rights. Make it a priority that everyone in your group learns about the following topics:

- Grand Juries and how to deal with them
- COINTELPRO tactics for destroying movements and how to protect ourselves
- What to do if cops knock on your door
- What to do if cops stop you on the street
- What to do if you are arrested

The following are indispensable resources:

- *War at Home* by Brian Glick (South End Press)
- *If an Agent Knocks*, a pamphlet by The Center for Constitutional Rights

ADOPT A SECURITY CULTURE NOW

Activists are restless and resistance is on the rise. People are adopting more and more effective tactics. Now, more than ever, resistance poses a serious threat to the status quo in this country. Our increased activity and effectiveness mean that the FBI, ATF, and local police will continue to escalate their COINTELPRO activities against activists. If we want our direct action to continue, it is imperative we start tightening our security and taking ourselves more seriously. Good security is certainly the strongest defense we have.

Revised Spring 1999

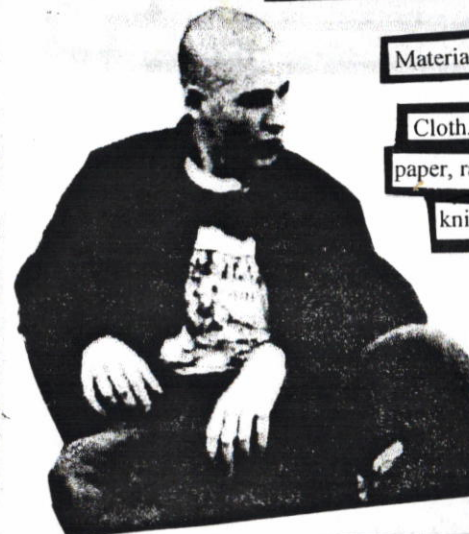
How to Make Patches

Materials:

Cloth, acrylic paint or spray paint, vinyl contact paper, razor blade or scissors, paintbrush or putty knife, pen or other writing utensil.

Directions:

There are several ways to make patches, but this is one of the cheaper methods (and it's pretty easy as well).



Step One- Draw the design you want to use on the contact paper. Make sure you don't make it bigger than the size you want the patch to be. Also, intricate designs can be hard to cut out and the contact paper may fall apart easier after only a few uses if the vinyl left to support it is too thin. Remember, whatever you cut out will be where the paint will be on the patch. The areas where contact paper remains will be plain cloth.

Step Two- Cut out your design using a razor blade (if you don't have one you can use a sharp pair of scissors the same way- just hold the scissors by one leg as if it were a knife).

Step Three- Once you have cut out your design, remove the backing to the contact paper and stick the contact paper to the cloth you want to make a patch out of.

Step Four- If you are using acrylic paint, take the paint brush (or putty knife) and apply acrylic paint to the areas of the cloth that are exposed through the vinyl. It's alright if you get some on the design, but if you want to reuse it try not to get too much on. If you are using spray paint, just spray it over the contact paper and cloth. Try not to get the material too wet with paint or it might bleed and ruin your design.

Step Five- For acrylic paint: remove the contact paper carefully after the paint begins to dry (wait about a minute after applying the paint). For spray paint: wait a few minutes for the spray paint to dry and then remove the contact paper carefully. You can reuse the contact paper to make more patches, but as it loses its stickiness you may want to cut out the design on fresh paper and start over.



Lying: To impress others, liars claim to have done illegal actions. Such lies not only compromise the person's security – as cops will not take what is said as a lie – but these claims also hinder movement solidarity and trust.

Gossiping: Some weak characters think they can win friends by displaying that they are privy to special information. These gossips will tell others about who did what action. If they don't know anything about a particular action, gossips may talk about who they guess might have been involved or they will just spread rumors about who did it. This sort of talk is very damaging. People need to remember that mere rumors are sufficient to initiate a grand jury.

Bragging: Some people who partake in illegal direct action might be tempted to brag about it to their friends. If someone did such a thing, it would not only jeopardize the security of the bragger and the other people involved with the action, but it places the people who he or she told at risk. They can become accessories after the fact. They can also be subpoenaed by a grand jury and forced to choose between lying to the grand jury (a serious crime), refusing to cooperate (potentially resulting in months of imprisonment), or betraying the movement by repeating the information that they were needlessly told. An activist who brags also sets a horrible example for other activists.

Indirect Bragging: Indirect-Braggers are people who make a big production on how they want to remain anonymous, avoid protests, and stay "underground." They might not come out and say they do illegal direct action, but they make sure everyone within earshot knows they are up to something. They are no better than braggers, but they try to be more sophisticated about it by pretending to maintain "security." However, if they were serious about security, they would just make up a good excuse as to why they are not as active, or why they can't make it to the protest (this kind of lying is definitely acceptable).

EDUCATE TO LIBERATE

With what we now know about security, it is easy to spot those activists who compromise our movement's security. So what do we do with people who exhibit these behaviors? Do we excommunicate them from our movement? Actually, no – at least not for their first mistake.

The unfortunate truth is that there are numerous security-ignorant people in the movement and others who have been raised in a "scene" that thrives on bragging and gossiping. It doesn't mean these people are bad, but it does mean they need to be educated. Even seasoned activists can make mistakes when there is a general lack of security consciousness in our groups. And that's where those of you who are reading this can help. **We must never allow a breach of security to occur without acting to correct it.** If an acquaintance of yours is bragging about doing an action or is spreading security-compromising gossip, it is your responsibility to explain to her or him why that sort of talk violates security and is inappropriate within our movement.

You should strive to educate this person in a manner that encourages him to listen and to change his behavior. It should be done without damaging his pride. You should be humble and sincerely interested in helping him to become a better person and a more effective activist. Do not maintain a "holier-than-thou" attitude. This attitude will inevitably raise his defenses and prevent him from absorbing or using any of the advice you offer. Remember that the goal of educating him is to change his behavior, not boost your ego by showing him how much more security-conscious you are.

THREE EXCEPTIONS

There are only three times when it is acceptable to speak about this information. The first situation is when you are planning an action with other members of your small group (your "cell" or "affinity group"). However, you should never discuss actions over the Internet (e-mail), on the phone, through the mail, or inside the activist's home or car because these places are frequently monitored. The only people who should hear this discussion are those individuals who are actively partaking in the particular action. **Anyone who is not involved does not need to know and therefore should not know.**

The second exception occurs after an activist has been arrested and brought to trial. If she is found guilty, this activist can freely speak of the actions for which she was convicted. However, she must never give information that would help the authorities determine who else participated in illegal activities.

The third exception is for anonymous letters and interviews with the media. This must be done very carefully and without compromising security. Advice on secure communication techniques can be found in other publications.

These are the only situations when it is appropriate to speak about your own or someone else's involvement in or intent to commit illegal direct action.

SECURITY MEASURES

Veteran activists only allow a select few to know about their involvement with direct action groups. And those few consist of individuals with whom they do the action **and no one else!**

The reason for this security precaution is quite obvious: if people don't know anything, they can't talk about it. The only people who know the secret are the ones who actually face jail time if the secret gets out. If other activists who do not share the same serious consequences know who did an illegal direct action, they are far more likely to talk if harassed and intimidated by the authorities, because they will not be jailed. Even those people who are trustworthy can often be tricked into revealing damaging and incriminating information.

So it is safest for all cell members to keep their involvement in the group amongst themselves. The fewer people who know, the less evidence there is to bust them.

SECURITY-VIOLATING BEHAVIOR

In an attempt to impress others, activists may behave in ways that compromise security. Some people do this frequently—they are habitually gossiping and bragging. Some activists say inappropriate things only when they consume alcohol. Many activists make occasional breeches of security because there was a momentary temptation to say something or hint at something that shouldn't have been said or implied. In most every situation, the desire to be accepted is the root cause.

Those activists who tend to be the greatest security risks are people who have low self-esteem and strongly desire the approval of their peers. Certainly it is natural to seek friendship and recognition for our efforts, but it is imperative that we keep these selfish desires in check so that we do not jeopardize the safety of other activists or ourselves. People who place their desire for friendship over the importance of the cause can do serious damage to our security.

The following are examples of security-violating behavior:

The Boils



Alexandra: When did The Boils form and under what circumstances?

Greg: The Boils formed around 1995, circumstances being that I wanted to have a go at writing songs, at playing out. I had seen local shows almost every weekend, and felt like I said seen the good and the bad that the area had to offer. So I got some people together who were around me at the time, and formed what was the first line up of the band.

What is the current lineup?

Currently, I play both guitar and do lead vocals, Dave who had been playing with me since around '97 on and off is our full-fledged bass player. Warren, originally from the York PA area, now a Philadelphian has been our drummer for about two years now. And we just recently added a second guitar player in the form of Jeff Berman, a one time Lancaster PA resident who currently is rooming in Washington DC.

How does being in this band fit into your life?

It controls it! Dominates it! DESTROYS IT! Just kidding...sort of. It really is a fulltime commitment, on a multitude of levels. When people say "I'm bored tonight" its usually hard for me to be able to relate to that, as for the last five years, I feel like I've ALWAYS had something to tend to because of the band. It becomes a lifestyle in that there's always something going on, be it a show, or songs you may be working on. And when there isn't all of that chaos, you start to feel kind of empty if too much time goes by without it. On the other side of the coin, DIY touring has stripped me of my "riches"(ha!) and there are a number of other compromises and decisions that you face regarding money, jobs, etc because of the band.

What's the relationship like between all the band members?

We're all really good friends who ironically enough, all met because of the band. I met Dave, Jeff, and Warren because at different times, they all booked The Boils in previous line-ups that we had. Things can obviously get stressful amidst the rigors of touring, but we are a strong cohesive unit of friends and band members 95% of the time.

Describe your music.

Simply said, its punk rock. Its punk rock with a voice like yours or his or hers. That's what I've really tried to strive for in the band, especially as of late. I'm not gonna dumb

myself down when I'm writing lyrics, but I'm also not any smarter than you or the next guy. I'm just a kid who's always gone to shows, always been into some form of underground, aggressive music, and I just write about what I see, both around me and inside me. All I want is for everyone to come out, smash some shit up and sing a long

What do you try to portray through your music? What does it all mean?

There's no way to really collectively configure all the different thoughts, ideas, and emotions that we've tried to convey into one, singular definition of "what we are." The closest I could come would be to say that after a week of shit, be it school, work, etc, I want coming to a Boils show to be like a sanctuary from the rest of the world around us. A place where you can be whatever you are, and throw yourself out there and let it all hang out

What goals does the band have as a whole for its future?

We just want to be able to keep doing what we've been doing. If it ever gets bigger, awesome. If not, we are happy with what we are.

Do you feel you are on your way to accomplishing these?

I won't lie, there's a bigger and better things that we really want to do (i.e.: bigger US tour, European tour, Japan,) but in a way, I think by being together and being excited about what we do, AND...to have there be some kids who are responsive towards that, well, I think we've already accomplished a great deal right there.

What keeps you focused and working towards your goals?

There are a number of things that keep me focused. The relationships I have with people all over the world because of the band is one. The feeling I get when we receive a new record in the mail, and thus have the fruits of our labor right there in our hands. And finally, the passion that burns in me when we play to an excited, aggressive, and PASSIONATE crowd of both friends and fans alike

What is the hardest thing about being in a band?

Money, money, money.... losing money on tours and such, the money you owe for hills and rent and t-shirts and van rentals...I could go on. The nights when you feel like you've just punched in and gone to work, those shows where there's maybe a handful of kids watching you who are just waiting to get out of there. And the nights on tour when you've been away for a while and you're missing your girlfriend or your mom.

What is the best thing?

Going to a place hundreds of miles from home and seeing kids, be it 10 or a hundred, who are waiting to see your band. That's a really great feeling. Drinking on Bourbon Street is up there too. And climbing rocks with Oxymoron. Best of all would be playing to a hometown crowd with lots of friends and lots of beer. (except for Dave)

Have any of you been in bands before this or have side projects going on?

Dave was in a band called Anal sausage, who are on the Philly Shreds Vol. 1 compilation. He's also been in other bands like Damage with his friend Robbie, and he played in Philly's Rizzo Machine from time to time. Warren used to be in a band from York called Paparazzi Death Squad. Jeff used to be in a band from the Lancaster area called The Statiks. I sand a Suicidal Tendencies song and something else at a park pavilion.

This pamphlet is essential reading for anyone who is associated with groups that advocate and/or utilize sabotage, animal liberation, or more militant tactics. The advice herein also applies to anyone who is associated with groups that practice civil disobedience, especially since membership often overlaps and gossip travels freely between groups.

Even if you have never picked up a monkeywrench or been arrested for civil disobedience, even if you think you have nothing to hide, these guidelines will enhance your personal safety as well as the movement's overall effectiveness. Grand injuries will go after activists from all portions of a movement. And the government is not beyond fabricating evidence to convict mainstream organizers if given any kind of opportunity to build a case. The history of the FBI's CONTELPRO operations should never be forgotten. The US government has targeted groups that have advocated sabotage and groups that have not, movements that have been militant and movements that have been markedly pacifist. The government's security machinery (FBI, ATF, DEA, US Marshals, state police, local police, courts, prisons and parole officers) serves *political* objectives. There are over 200 political prisoners in the US that can testify to this from firsthand experience. By adopting a security culture, we can defeat various counterintelligence operations that would otherwise disrupt both mainstream organizing and underground resistance.

SO WHAT IS A SECURITY CULTURE?

It's a culture where the people know their rights and, more importantly, assert them. Those who belong to a security culture also know what behavior compromises security and they are quick to educate those people who, out of ignorance, forgetfulness, or personal weakness, partake in insecure behavior. This security consciousness becomes a *culture* when the group as a whole makes security violations socially and morally unacceptable in the group.

WHAT NOT TO SAY

To begin with, there are certain things that are inappropriate to discuss. These things include:

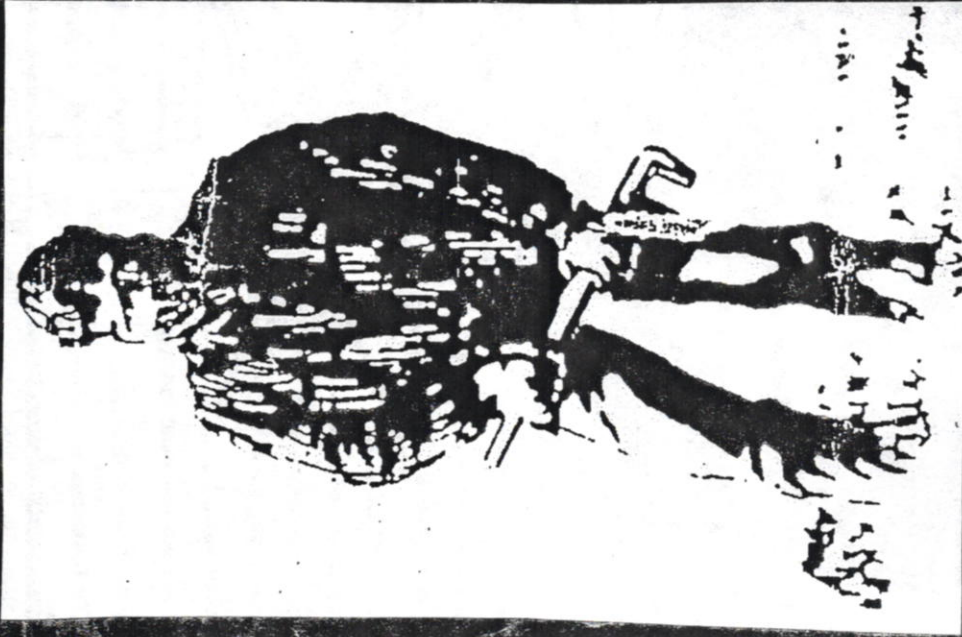
- Your involvement or someone else's involvement with an underground group
- Someone else's *desire* to get involved with such a group
- asking others if they are a member of an underground group
- your participation or someone else's participation in any action that was illegal
- someone else's *advocacy* for such actions
- your plans or someone else's plans for a future action

Can you see a pattern? It is wrong to speak about a specific individual's involvement (past, present, or future) with illegal activities. These are unacceptable topics of discussion regardless of whether it is rumor, speculation or personal knowledge. **Please note: no one is claiming it is wrong to speak about direct action in general terms. It is perfectly legal, secure and desirable that people speak out in support of monkeywrenching and all forms of resistance. The danger lies in linking individual activists to specific actions or groups.**

Security Culture

What it is, why we need it and how we implement it...

(This article is a reproduction of a pamphlet)



Luddites; abolitionists; union organizers; revolutionaries...from the large uprisings challenging the entire political structure, to isolated battles over the working conditions of a single factory, people have struggled to create a better world. Governments have always responded by jailing activists and revolutionaries, using their courts and their police forces to maintain the status quo.

As our direct action movement becomes more effective, government surveillance and harassment will increase. To minimize the destructiveness of this political repression, it is imperative that we create a security culture within our movement.

What was the last thing you released as a band?

Our second full length, "Pride And Persecution", in April of 2002. A number of compilations that we've appeared on were released in April as well. Check out our web site for a run down.

Do you have any plans to release anything in the near future?

Absolutely! We have plans to do a split seven inch with a number of bands including Last Target from Japan, and Spitfire United from DC. There's lots of stuff on the table, we're in the middle of figuring out what and when we can do it.

Of all your releases, do you have a favorite?

The new one! How cliché of me. But as we've grown as a band, and as songwriters, I think this shows where we've been able to go with it all better than anything else we've done.

What bands do you enjoy playing shows with?

Hometown friends like Violent Society and Dead Empty, and friends from afar like The Hudson Falcons, APA, Forgotten, and Oxymoron. Anything any former member of Patriot is involved in.

If you could play a show with any band, defunct or not, who would it be?

Blitz.

Do you try to educate people about issues or causes through your lyrics?

I just try to express an idea, whether someone finds any sort of education therein is up to them. I don't think I'm out to enlighten or educate, I'm just throwing my life's experiences or emotions out there. There are certain bands out there who maybe are trying to change the world and educate us all, but I think I'm just trying to relate to people, not "teach" them anything.

Does one person write songs or is it more

the lyrics for your of a group effort?

I've actually been the sole lyric writer for the band. I think with all the line up changes we've had, the fact that most (not all) of the music is written by me, and all of the lyrics have helped to give the band a defining sound and vibe through the last few years.

Do any of your songs have a strong personal meaning to you, above that of other songs you have written?

"War Stories", from Pride and Persecution, has a real personal meaning to me. It was



written about the stories my grandfather used to tell me as a child about his service on Iwo Jima, and it was a real personal experience for me to think about those stories and to them create a song about them. That's probably one of the most personal songs we have out there. "Stalag Days", about an old Philly warehouse that we hung out at for a good few solid years is another real personal one.

What is your favorite song to perform live?

Right now it's Stalag Days...it's fresh new, and I think one of our best ever.

What kind of audiences do you like to play for? Are you into crowd participation or would you rather just be observed?

We are absolutely into crowd participation. We played one of our best shows recently at a small basement in West Philadelphia, where everyone was in our faces, singing along, kicking over amps, breaking the ceiling...a show doesn't get much better than that.

Is there any show you've played that really sticks out in your memory as good or bad?

A show we played in South Amboy two days ago was pretty hurtin'.

What are your interests outside of playing music?

I can only speak for myself by saying shootin' hoops, goin' to the beach, watchin' movies, talkin' football, girls softball, watchin' "movies". I'm pretty easily amused. Throw me a handful of quarters and Hydro Thunder and I'm happy.

What's your opinion on DIY?

It is and should always be a part of punk rock. Even though there are some great things happening for bands who have maybe "graduated" from the DIY level, to deny the DIY ethic is to deny the very essence of punk rock. It will always be a part of what we do.

What initially got you into punk?

DIY shows! As well as getting a hold of records like The Misfits, Sex Pistols, Dead Kennedys, and old hardcore like Sheer Terror and Agnostic Front which all opened up a whole new world for me.

What in your opinion are the best and worst aspects of the punk scene?

The best thing about the punk rock scene is the brotherhood and sisterhood found within, the common bond that we all share simply by being there. The worst thing about it is when that turns into facioned elitist attitudes towards others.

Spoon was gone. I didn't know where. It didn't matter anyway. I was

happy alone, despite how it might have seemed. Honestly, I wasn't spending

much time alone, but the times I wasn't with people I spent throwing

things at walls, kicking over furniture, giving people on the streets menacing

looks and swearing to

kick their teeth in. Being

meaning a not-so-angry,

somewhat confused at

myself that if anyone bothered me I would

that I was normally a quiet, reserved person,

though often sad or unsteady person. I was

my new found boiling rage, but I figured it

was provoked by

boredom and I moved on. The

ready-to-kill me only stuck around

for a few days, and soon I was

left with the restless boredom

that I hadn't felt in a long time.

I wasn't sure what to do about

it. "If Spoon were around he'd fix me" I

found myself thinking on more

than one occasion. The fifth

time the thought popped

into my mind, I was

really sick of it and

made an important,

well-thought-out

decision about

the direction

my life was

heading.

"FUCK THIS!"

I screamed

to the empty

room, and stormed out

into the miserable

summer night, all my significant belongings in my arms. How had

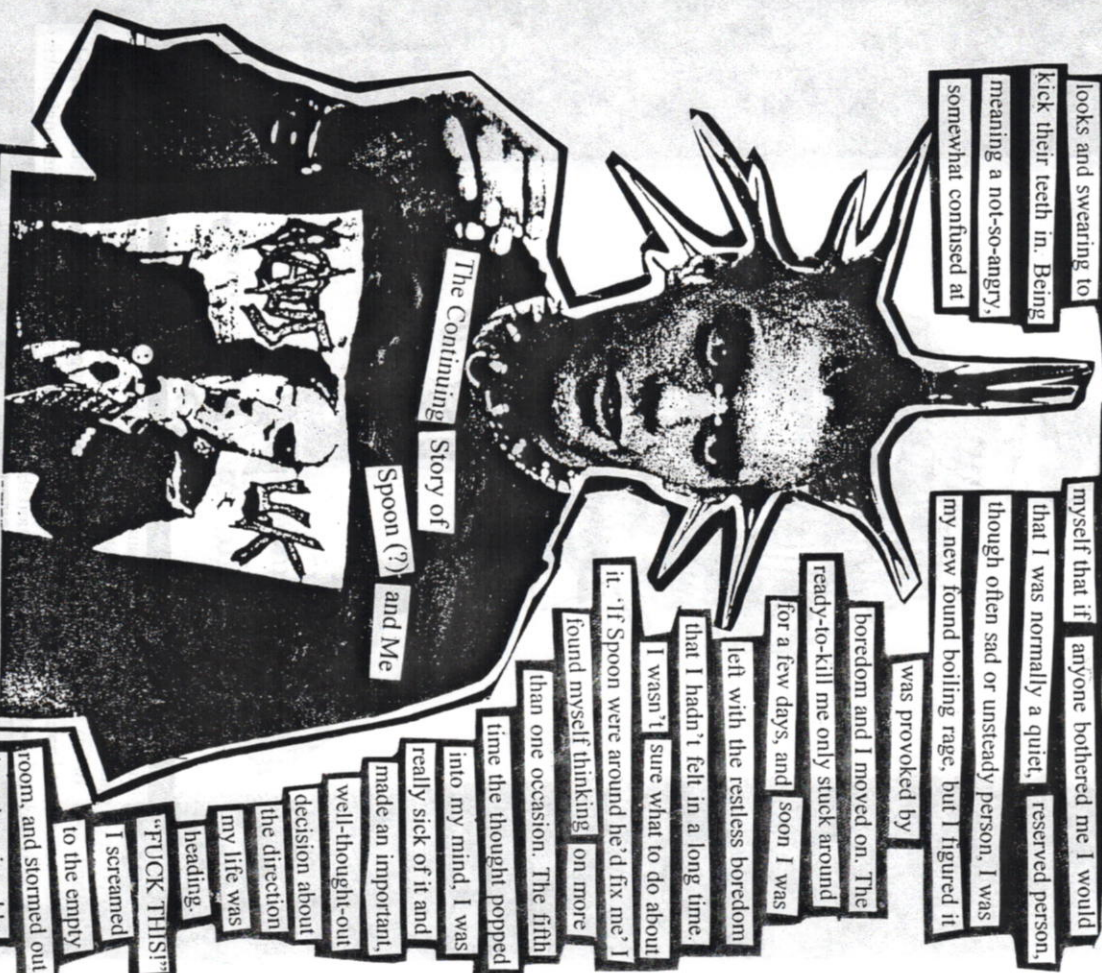
boy, control so much of my life? How had I gone from self

I don't know but I was determined to reverse the damage. When I got to the end of the

block, I realized what I was doing and stopped. "Where to now?" thought I

"Doesn't really matter" answered me, and on I walked.

The Continuing Story of Spoon (?) and Me



Do you think that people are more willing now to accept people for their individuality than they have been in the past few years?
Yes.



When was the last time The Casualties put out a record?

The last record we put out was DIE HARDS on side one dummy records. That was released last AUGUST I think.

Do you have any plans to release anything anytime soon?

Not yet, after we finish touring we're going to eight a new record. So it will be sometime.

Where do you see the band five years from now? Ten years from now?

I don't know. Dead maybe?

Tour Dates (for updates and changes check out www.punkcore.com)

April. 30th Indianapolis, IN @ Festavilla

May 1st Milwaukee, WI @ Globe East

May 2nd Harvey, IL @ Rubes

May 3rd Minneapolis, MN @ Red Sea Tavern

May 22nd Houston, TX @ Fitzgerald's

May 23rd Austin, TX @ Emo's

May 4th Omaha, NE @ Farnam Street

May 14th Sacramento, CA @ The Colonial Theater

May 17th Hollywood, CA @ The Palace

May 18th Las Vegas, NV @ Tremor

May 19th Mesa, AZ @ Big Fish Pub

May 20th El Paso, TX @ Wild Hare's

May 26th St. Petersburg, FL @ State Theatre

May 27th Orlando, FL @ Wills Pub

May 28th Columbia, SC @ Uncle Doctors

May 29th Columbia, SC @ Uncle Doctors

May 30th Columbia, SC @ Uncle Doctors

May 31st Columbia, SC @ Uncle Doctors

June 1st Columbia, SC @ Uncle Doctors

June 2nd Columbia, SC @ Uncle Doctors

June 3rd Columbia, SC @ Uncle Doctors

Do you have any plans to tour anytime soon?

Yup, this summer we're waiting on word for a few tours in the works possibly. We also found out that next year we're finally getting to go to Japan, thanks to Last Target.

Where have you played across the states?

We've played almost every state at this point, although we've only scratched the surface out west.

Anywhere you haven't played but would like to?

Australia.

Have you observed any striking differences between the scenes in different cities across America?

There are always varying degrees of similarities and differences. Some places have great scenes, others are struggling. And some, thanks to simply on or two people, have an active scene because of their accomplishments. For instance, Deb of Devil Dolls Productions really seems to hold things together down in New Orleans. Certain places I think owe a lot to the integrity of the few people willing to deal with all the bullshit that comes along with booking and promoting shows.

Do you have any advice for kids wanting to get involved in their local scene?

There are so many ways to get involved, and your involvement keeps things flourishing for the rest of us in the scene. Be it a band, or a zine, or a web site for shows, or a promoter, if you want to get more involved with all of this, you should!

Are there any zines that you read regularly?

Suburban Voice from Boston.

To find The Boils on the internet, go to www.theboils.com. To order the new record, send \$10.00 to The Boils, PO Box 1751 West Chester, PA 19380.



The Silly Little Dreams of a Silly Little Girl

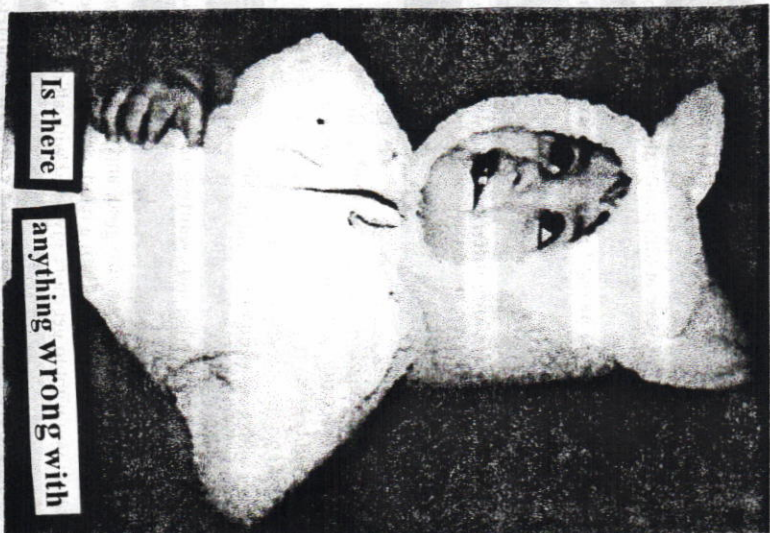


When people ask me what I want to be when I grow up, I just stare back blankly. That or I try to give some quick, easy answer that usually ends with me sounding like a silly child.

Continuing on with my zine and trying to make progress with it is what I'd like to do, among hundreds of other

things, but when I say that to people most smirk, laugh a little, and sigh. "Silly girl, with her silly dreams and little hobbies." I don't know.

Maybe it is a silly little hobby and I should try to do something a little more practical than write my zine the rest of my life. It's not just that though.



Is there anything wrong with

having the life I chose?

I want to have my own distro, or maybe even a record label. I want to book bands, make clothes to sell, take photographs, organize a zine library, write books and poetry, play bass in a band, make a garden, have a vegan bakery, be politically aware and active, travel the country and maybe even the world...

I'd settle for less, for the fun I could have along the way to my potential successes or failures. Shouldn't I at least give half of it a shot before I let someone convince me that my wants are too impractical? Silly dreams... Am I supposed to waste my life in a job I hate just to make money to pay for things I don't need? Really, if nothing appeals to me but my dreams (which is why they are my dreams in the first place), should I instead settle for what I abhor and spend my life waiting for the day I can retire? It's ridiculous.

Do you or any of the other Casualties have things you do to prepare for touring? We bust our asses making our own t-shirts. That's always a good time.

Do you have any expectations or predictions for this tour?

A ton of drinking. A whole lot of fun. A.G.T. are our boys, so it's going to be a great time.

What have tours been like for you in the past? Do you have any particularly good or bad memories about them?

We have been touring for a while now. It gets a little better each time we go out. We have had some nightmares though. Just breaking down in the middle of nowhere, losing money. Shitty shows. There has been a lot of struggles. But we love it.

What about being in The Casualties in general? What are the good and bad sides to being in a band?

The good part is traveling and hanging out with you buddies, and getting people to hear your music. A Bad part is no real order to your life. I don't know if I'm going to be able to make next month's rent. Or whatever. No steady income, that sucks.

Are the things you hope to get out of playing different than when you first joined the band?

No not at all. I had no idea the band would have go to where it is today.

Do you have any goals that you hope to accomplish as a band?

Just to keep playing around as much as possible, see the world, and having as many people, who want to, hear our music.

How do you feel about the factions within the punk scene? Is it necessary for there to be so many divisions within a group of people?

Not at all. That's the worst thing, a so-called "scene" can have.

While playing shows in different cities across the world have you noticed any distinct difference in the way the audiences interact with the bands and the other kids in the crowd?

Oh yeah. There are places where people just stare at you, while other places the crowd is on stage going fucking crazy right along with you.

Have you ever encountered any people in places you've played that showed hostility or anger towards you because you portray the image of street punk, which hasn't been readily accepted in society?

Yeah we have had threats, looks and everything else because the way we look. Oh well who gives a shit.

We talk about Unity within our culture. How it's worthless to fight each other. About our lives. Tour. Just things we experience first hand.

As a band, do you feel strongly about any particular issues? Do you speak out about these through your music or do you prefer to keep things quieter when it comes to feelings on different matters?

We feel strongly about Unity like I was just saying, and anything that we feel that's important to talk about. Keep quiet? Hell no, that's what this is. A release of our thoughts and aggression.

Have you undergone any changes in ideals or what you value as an individual since being in The Casualties?

Personally I do not think so. I'm still the same person who has kept the same beliefs since I joined the band.

What role does being in the band play in your life?

Just about everything. I have to gear just about every decision I make around the band. It's how I live and eat. It also tells me where and when I'm going to be.

(Touring)



Has your life changed any since you joined?

Yes. I've got to see a lot of the world I probably would not have. That's a good and bad thing. You would understand if you have seen some of the shitty places we used to play. Also god knows what I'd be doing if I was not playing music.

What bands do you enjoy listening to?

So many. I listen to Global Threat, The Unseen, Flogging molly and all the classic punk like GBH, Varukers, Clash Etc....

Have you had the opportunity to play shows with any bands or people that have really blown you away?

Yeah. A lot of the older bands I never thought I'd get to see I've played with. Mostly thanks to the HITS festivals. Bands again, like GBH, Exploited, Sham 69, The Dickies....

I heard you're leaving for tour soon. Where are some of the places you'll be going?

Yet another full tour of the USA. All over. Check out WWW.THECASUALTIES.NET for dates and venues.

What bands are going with you?

We start off with A GLOBAL THREAT, then meet up with FLOGGING MOLLY for about 10 days. Then finish the rest of the Tour with A.G.T. I can't wait.

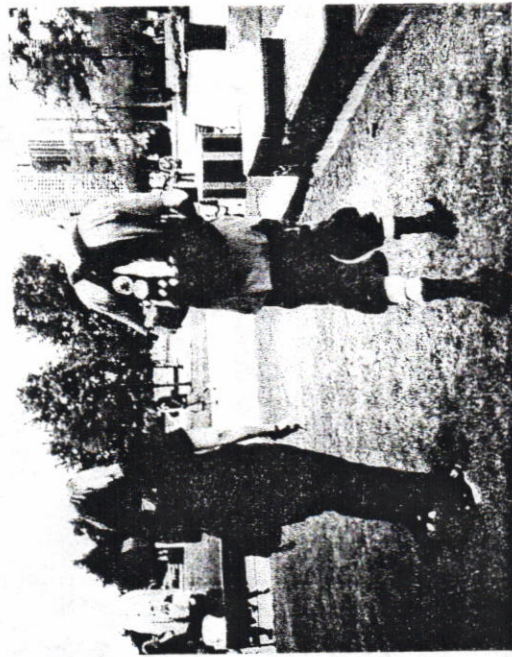
I would much rather spend my days writing and traveling, bumming around with my friends, going to shows and just barely being able to scrape up the money for the door charge than sitting in an office making money, living in a nice house, cooking, cleaning and having a family like so many people think I should.

"It's alright for now," they used to whisper. "It's just a phase." But as my eighteenth birthday grows ever closer, as high school gets nearer to an end and college approaches, they ask me what I want to be when I grow up more often, and each time the

laughter grows more nervous and my answer, even my silence, sound

more threatening than what would amount to a silly little hobby.

People used to tell me that I had all the time in the world to decide what I wanted to be; what I wanted to do with my life.



So when did that change? Just because I turn eighteen in less than five months means I should have my whole life mapped out?

I should wake up tomorrow and decide that I am going to have this wonderfully boring professional career and spend my days exhausted, unhappy and upset? That's stupid. So what if I decide that I don't want to be a lawyer or a doctor; to leave behind a pile of money for whatever relatives I have; to have people at my funeral say that I made such a difference in the business world? Is there anything wrong with having the life I chose?

The life I want? I suppose for now I will just continue as I have been: writing, making art, making plans out of silly little dreams and carrying them out. Who knows, maybe someday I will look back on this and realize that I was really just being foolish. Then again, maybe I won't, and that's what is important right now.

The Forgotten

Alexandra: Who are the members of The Forgotten? What are your roles in the band?



Gordy: Well we got Johnny on Bass, Craig on guitar, D. Kash on drums and my name is Gordy and I sing.

How did the band form?

Craig and I started the band back at the end of '97 when our current bands fucked up.

Why did it form?

Do you ask mold why it grows on rotting food? Or as shit why it smells so bad? So is the forgotten.

How long have you been playing together?

Craig and I since '97. D. since about '99 and Johnny since 2000.

Have there been any lineup changes since the band first formed?

Yeah. First our drummer Shea left to follow his dreams and start the Richmond Sluts. Then our bassist Kenny left to further explore the life of John Muir.

Is the current lineup permanent, or do you still have some changes you want to make?

Fuck that shit! We are solid.

When did you last release any music?

Out in Germany in 2001 we did "Ask No Questions."

Do you have plans to release music in the near future?

Yes. We are putting the finishing touches on the new album "Control Me" due out on BYO this summer.

When does your tour start?

There will be several tours. We start on May 4th for the run. Everything is listed on the website as it becomes real.

Where are you going on this tour?

This first one is all U.S. and then to Europe and then back to the states.

Are any other bands going with you?

Nope. Just us.

Have you ever encountered any major problems on the road?

Oh yeah. Illness, fights, van trouble, stupid people talking too much. All the normal shit.

THE CASUALTIES

Alexandra: How long have you played drums in The Casualties?

Meggert: I've been playing with the band since late 1995.

How did you end up joining the band?

I used to be in a band with the original Bass player of the Casualties (Mark). We were



called the Rivits. Also the singer of the Rivits at the time was Jorge's girlfriend. We all hung out together. One day at a Blanks 77 show at the wetlands, Jorge came up to me and said they were having problems w/ their drummer. He asked if they got rid of him would I like to join the band. So I said "sure, why not?" and there you have it.

What is the current lineup?

Jake-Flying V, Jorge-Screams, Rick-God of Thunder and Rock N Roll. Meggers-Skinz.

Has the lineup changed at all since you first joined the band?

Only the Bass players. There have been a couple. Jorge, Jake and I have been together for a while now.

Since you joined, has the band undergone any major musical changes sound wise?

Are you kidding? Listen to the records they are all fast aggressive punk rock. Nothings changed. It's what we know.

How would you describe your music to someone who had never heard it before?

High speed, aggressive, HardCore Punk Rock n' Roll

What are some of the messages you and your band try to portray through your music?

to deflate and it has been at least 7 days, you know it is done for sure. You will notice that there is a white residue at the bottom of the jug. This is normal.

Step 4: Remove the balloon/condom. It is time to transfer the wine into other containers. This is how I do it: I sit the jug on the kitchen counter, and then I sit the containers I am going to transfer the wine into on the floor below. Put one end of the aquarium tubing into the jug of wine, close to the bottom, but NOT touching the

residue on the bottom. You want to avoid getting any of that in your containers (it won't be terrible if you get a little in there, it will just form a residue in the bottom of the other containers). Gently suck on the other end of the aquarium tubing until a flow begins, then place the end of the tubing in the container on the floor. If it fills up one container, just grab the end of the hose and put it in another container. Do this until you have siphoned all of the wine out of the jug. Don't walk away from this part of the process, or you will likely find a puddle of wine on your floor when you return. Trust me on this one.

Step 5: Tightly cap or cork the containers. I like to keep mine in the fridge, but any cool, dry, dark place would be fine. That's it. Throw yourself a party.



I've talked to quite a few bands that get back from tour and can't stand the sight of their band mates. How do you avoid this, or is it just a fact of spending so much time with the same people?

When you're in a band you are married to the people in it. You have to treat it as so and work on your relationship constantly or it will fall apart.

When you're not playing music, how do you spend your time?

When you're in a band you are married to the people in it. You have to treat it as so and work on your relationship constantly or it will fall apart.

When you're not playing music, how do you spend your time?

When not playing some of us work and others don't. I like to check out other bands, hit the bar, and catch up with my girl and bros around town.

What are your goals as a band? What do you hope to accomplish through your music?

Just to keep putting out music. We like what we do.

Are there any causes you fight for as a band?

The end to ignorance would be a nice start.

What do you stand for as a group?

America and beer.

Do you still want to be playing music ten years from now?

Yes! Will you still want to listen to it?

Of course. Have you ever had any problems amongst band members?

In the past. Not now.

What does being in a band mean to you? What is The Forgotten in your life?

Next to my girl it's everything. It's all I know anymore.

How do you hope to affect your fans through your music?

I want them to have fun first off. If they hear the words that would be cool and even cooler if they wanted to pick up the same fight.

Do you have any advice for anyone reading this?

Yes. Whatever you are striving for quit or drop out...

You'll never succeed anyway.



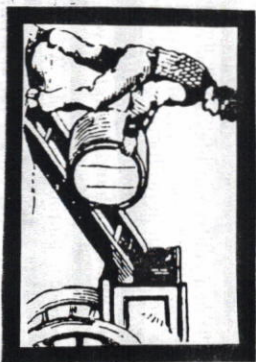
Photos by Chris Hall (San Francisco, CA Bottom Of The Hill)

DIY Wine

I found this on a do-it-yourself website and I thought it sounded interesting, so I wanted to share it. I haven't tried it as of yet so I don't know how well it works, but if you've tried it or try it after reading this, let me know how it turns out.

Materials:

- A gallon sized glass or ceramic jug
- Two 12 oz. containers of frozen juice concentrate*
- A balloon or unlubricated condom**
- A length of clean (never used for anything else) aquarium tubing, at least 3 feet long. You can purchase this at pet supply stores, or on the pet aisle of grocery



- and department stores for about a buck.
- Extra bottles or jugs (Plastic is fine for this. Whatever you use, make sure it is totally clean!)
- A small amount of bleach water
- Two cups of granulated sugar
- One packet of yeast (these usually come in packages of 3 packets that are 1/4 oz. each, sold with the flour and baking needs in grocery stores)

Directions:

This is the easiest home brewing recipe you are ever going to find, taking only a few minutes to do and using stuff you can pick up at the local grocery store. It makes a simple fermented fruit based beverage. A wine connoisseur would scoff at this for sure. But they are operating on a totally different level. This is about doing it yourself, for whatever reason. Just because you like to make things with your own two hands, or because you don't want to support big corporations, or you want to live more simply and naturally. And yeah, the will get you drunk.

I have made this several times at home. People like it. I have heard some concern about the risk of getting sick from drinking this--because hey, you are fermenting fruit juices. So I just want to say that this is really a non-issue. If you use CLEAN equipment when you are making this with CLEAN hands, there is not going to be a problem. After making it, take a test sip. If anything has gone wrong, you will know by the taste right away. If it tastes rancid, throw it away. If it taste like wine, keep it. But I'll just let you know that I have never had a bad batch using this method.

* Juice Concentrate: The basic choices for this would be regular purple grape juice for a red wine, and white grape juice for a white wine. You can use other flavors of juice, if you like. Organic is great.

** Balloon or unlubricated condom: This is used for making an airtight seal on the jug. I highly recommend an unlubricated condom. From my experiences, balloons do not stretch well over the large mouth of some jugs, and therefore tend to break. However, if a balloon is what you will be using, try to find one with a larger opening. As far as the condoms go, unlubricated just seems to be the way to go. You don't need spermicides in your wine.

Prepping: Allow the fruit juice to thaw completely. Clean the jug with a small amount of bleach, then soapy water, and then rinse well. You need to use bleach to kill any bacteria that may be living in the jug, or you risk having a botched batch of wine. Do not skip this step. Wash your hands well.

Step 1: Pour the fruit juice into the jug. A funnel may come in handy for this. Then pour in the 2 cups of sugar, the yeast, and fill the jug up about halfway full of warm water. Cap the jug and shake vigorously until it looks like most of the sugar is dissolved. Fill the jug completely with water.

Step 2: Stretch the balloon or condom over the mouth of the jug, trying to let in the least amount of air as possible. Squeeze the balloon or condom to get out excess air. You may want to wrap a rubber band around the base of the balloon/condom and the mouth of the jug if it is not a really tight fit. Now take the jug and sit it somewhere out of your way (especially if you don't want people to see a jug with a condom attached to it in your house). Wherever you sit it, it should be in a warm, room temperature place. Nowhere that is too cold or too hot.

Step 3: This step is pretty inactive on your part. The balloon/condom will begin to fill up with air as the juice ferments. You are going to be letting it sit from 7-10 days. What you want to watch for is when the balloon/condom looks like it is no longer expanding. Don't let this part worry you if you aren't sure. If it looks the same today as it did yesterday, then the wine has completed it's fermenting process. If the balloon/condom begins

